

PRESS RELEASE

December 12, 2006

**BUFFALO WOMAN ORDERED TO REPAY OVER \$80,000 TO SOCIAL SECURITY
ADMINISTRATION**

RE: UNITED STATES v. SHIRLEY LITTLE

United States Attorney Terrance P. Flynn, announced today that Shirley Little, age 51, of Buffalo, New York, was sentenced on December 8, 2006 by United States District Judge John T. Elfvin to five years probation and was ordered to repay \$81,438 to the Social Security Administration. Earlier this year Little pled guilty to a one-Count Information charging her with converting property of the United States (Supplemental Security Income disability payments) in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Allison P. Gioia stated that according to the terms of the plea agreement, beginning in 1992, Little was the representative payee for her mother, Mattie Little's Supplemental Security Income disability payments. Mattie Little died on December 30, 1993, however, Shirley Little continued to receive and cash Mattie Little's SSI checks until in or about May 2005.

Gioia further stated that Little admitted that for the period October 1, 1999, through and including April 29, 2005, the loss to the Social Security Administration was \$42,752.00. As reflected in the sentence imposed by Judge Elfvin, the terms of the plea agreement further provided that Little would be ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$81,438.00 to the Social Security Administration.

The conviction of Ms. Little was the result of an investigation coordinated by the United States Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General, with the assistance of the United States Secret Service.